Scott Lee

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Third grade in my elementary school was the time I first began learning English. I do not quite remember how exactly the learning process went along, but certainly, there were ‘listen and repeat,’ memorizing vocabularies and their tense forms, and studying grammar in class. Since it was the first time and I was not familiar with any foreign language, I went through struggles in learning English. Also, in my high school, I learned Spanish as a second language. By this time, I barely passed a test to pass English as Second Language, also known as ESL. Despite the fact that I passed the ESL test, English was already a foreign language to me, and thus, taking Spanish as a second language was rather learning a third language. However, these two experiences have something in common. They all followed similar paths in a sense of learning.

In both of my English class and Spanish class, I repeatedly memorized vocabularies by writing them down on index cards and followed reading words and sentences after instructors demonstrated pronunciation. Repetition learning method had been used mainly, but this method did not contribute much to my learning. The only difference was that in the Spanish class, my teacher made us make sentences using words and change the tense or an object and speak the words in real life, so we could get ourselves familiar with the words we just learned. The impact of learning this way was far huger than that of the first way. I personally was able to remember vocabularies better with this way. In case of forgetting words I learned, I could try to remember in what situation and context I had spoken the words so I could derive meanings by doing so.

As a learner, I prefer learning through experience and activity to learning through just reading and watching. As we learned from our TESOL class, productive way is better than receptive way in learning. I would rather have speaking time than just reading time. Just memorizing words might store these information in our brain, but if we do not get to pull them out and use them, then what is the point of knowing these words? Because of this, I consider learning through experience as one of the best ways of learning.